

Message Text

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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB EC

SUBJECT: VILLACRES CEOSL #2 FREEZES RELATIONS WITH AIFLD

REF: QUITO 0846 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT ON HEELS OF FECUAPETROL (EUCODOREAN PETROLEUM FEDERATION) DECISION TO FREEZE RELATIONS WITH AIFLD/ECUADOR AS LONG AS PRESENT CPD AGUSTINE TORRES-LAZO IN COUNTRY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF VILLACRES' CEOSL #2 ADOPTED SAME POSITION IN CLOSE VOTE AT MEETING IN RIOBAMBA MARCH 15. LETTER INFORMING AIFLD/ECUADOR OF FECUAPETROL DECISION WER RECEIVED MARCH 13. LETTERHEAD INDICATED FECUAPETROL DISAFFILIATION FROM DENVER-BASED IFPCW AND AFFILIATION TO INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNIONS (ICF). FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF CEOSL #2 DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE LEARNED THAT VICTOR PALACIOS MADE ANOTHER VISIT TO ECUADOR LAST WEEK ACCOMPANIED BY ICF'S LEVINSON AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FOMENTING THE DECISION TO AFFILIATE THE ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM WORKERS WITH THE ICF PREPARATORY TO CARACAS APRIL MEETING OF OPEC PETROLEUM WORKERS (SEE REFTEL). WE ALSO KNOW THAT IN LATE 1973 THERE WAS TALK OF A MERGER BETWEEN IFPCW AND ICF.

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3. LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CEOSL #2 IS ALMOST

IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF FECUAPETROL AND MAY INDICATE INFLUENCE OF PALACIOS IS NOT CONFINED TO PETROLEUM WORKERS. WE KNOW THAT PALACIOS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH VILLACRES. BUT DECISION OF VILLACRES IS ONLY LATEST LINK IN CHAIN OF MANY WHICH VILLACRES HAS FORMED SINCE CEOSL SPLIT AT MANTA CONGRESS THE END OF LAST OCTOBER. FOLLOWING AN OVERLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH EXISTED BETWEEN VILLACRES AND AIFLD/ECUADOR'S CPDS PRIOR TO TORRES-LAZO'S ARRIVAL, PROGRAM REDUCTIONS TORRES-LAZO EFFECTED AND HIS MORE OBJECTIVE BEHAVIOUR FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL HERE CAUSED VILLACRES TO ENTER MANTA CONGRESS CONVINCED THAT THESE ACTIONS HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY. FOLLOWING CONGRESS, VILLACRES MADE PITCH FOR RECOGNITION BY GOVERNMENT, BY ORIT, BY PTIT, BY AIFLD/ECUADOR AND OTHER ENTITIES. THUS FAR NONE HAVE TAKEN AN ACTION WHICH COULD BE REPRESENTED AS EXTENDING LEGITIMACY TO EITHER THE VILLACRES GROUP OR THE DISSIDENT CHAVEZ GROUP. BUT WHEN AIFLD/ECUADOR REFUSED TO TAKE SIDE, VILLACRES TOOK THIS AS CONFIRMATION OF HIS SUSPICION THAT TORRES-LAZO OPPOSED HIM AND HAS HAD CONTINUALLY CARPING COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS FOR THE AIFLD PROGRAMS OFFERED TO HIM. MEANWHILE, THE OTHER SIDE (CHAVEZ) HAS PRETENDED UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEUTRAL ROLE AIFLD HERE HAS HAD TO PLAY IN THIS CONTRETEMPS AND HAS ACTED IN A COOPERATIVE MANNER WITH RESPECT TO AIFLD AND ITS PROGRAMS. THIS ATTITUDE HAS NATURALLY WORKED TO CHAVEZ' ADVANTAGE AND HAS MADE VILLACRES APPEAR TO ENJOY LESS AIFLD SUPPORT THAN HAS ACTUALLY BEEN OFFERED HIM.

4. WE DO NOT VIEW THIS SITUATION AS ALARMING. RATHER THE TACTICS EMPLOYED BY VILLACRES TO MAKE AIFLD BUCKLE UNDER ARE FAMILIAR AND WE HAVE SEEN THEM USED ELSEWHERE. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED FOR THE POSSIBLE PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS THIS RECENT ACTION MAY HAVE AND WILL BE EXAMINING THEM WITH A VIEW TO CONSIDERING THE OPTIONS OPEN TO US. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE FORTHCOMING AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PROCESS.
BREWSTER

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